

The Voice

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"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS

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BETWEEN THE LINES

BY DEAN GORDON B. HANCOCK FOR ANP.

The pros and cons of interracial progress can be debated indefinitely. There are those who assert that race relations are in a state of deterioration. These view with alarm the resurgence of Negrophobia throughout the south and in a lesser degree throughout the country. The southern demagogues are reverting to the Ben Tillman-Hoke Smith-Vardeman-Heflin type of campaign.

The late Gene Talmadge of Georgia was the prophet of the new era of racial hatred. The appeal of these demagogues to the baser passions of the people has dangerous implications. This fact must never be minimized or discounted. The Negroes of the country have chosen to make a frontal attack on southern traditions and it is not surprising if these "latter day" Negro-phobes do not elect to counter in kind, that is by frontal attacks.

The rise of the Dixiecrats with their state rights campaign is no more than a polite way of saying with the demagogues of the past, "keep the Negro down." The current campaign of South Carolina's Gov. Strom Thurmond is hardly more than a revamped Tillmanism, Bilboism, Rankinism, Talmadgism and all the other anti-Negro isms that flourish in the south. Because the issues are so tightly drawn on state rights and the implications thereof, the coming election is going to be largely in the nature of an interracial poll telling where the Negro stands in the hearts and minds of the people of the nation. The Dixiecrats will serve that one good purpose of letting the world and the Negro know how stands the case of race relations in this country.

The strength of Democracy is the strength of the opposition to the Negro's full citizenship. The weakness of Dixiocracy will indicate how far the Negro has gone in winning the war of democracy for Negroes. There are those of us interracialists who at times grow hopeful at some dis-

play of this nation's more favorable attitude, while at other times despairing because of what amounts to a national "gang up" on the Negro in his drive for his rights. But the story will be told in November in terms that cannot be mistaken.

A more momentous election, as it concerns the Negro, has never been held in this country and it all stems from the civil rights stand of President Truman which set off a species of resentment among the Negrophobes that is shaking this nation to its very foundations. November will tell the story! However the elections may go, Truman must be credited with having focused the attention of the nation and world on the step-citizenship of the Negro. A large part of the nation is ashamed and the others will vote with the Dixiecrats.

The approaching elections will not only be the most illuminating interracial poll ever held in this country or in history, but it will give the Negro one of the finest political feasts ever offered a minority group. There is our good friend Henry Wallace, who is without doubt one of the best men in the country, in fact too good for the presidency.

It is unfortunate that his Progressive party is threatening to become an all-Negro party. For demonstrational purposes and for dramatic displays of sure-enough democracy, the Progressive party under the leadership of Wallace will serve a good purpose. But even the most intoxicated optimist of the Wallaceites does not even faintly envision Wallace's election. But for the Negro and white idealists Wallace and his platform offer a happy political diet.

But for the realists who want to get something started, the race is between Dewey and Truman.

California AME's Support Truman's Civil Rights

BY LEON WASHINGTON.

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (ANP). A resolution endorsing the civil rights program of President Truman was passed last week by the California conference of the AME church at its meeting here. Bishop D. Ormonde Walker presided over the meeting.

The resolution said, "... the gentleman from Missouri became the herald of a new day in human relationships to the extent that he stood by the constitution of the United States and all of its amendments declaring that all men have inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, that the minority groups of this country are entitled to the same privileges as the majority group, that the poll tax was anathema to the American political system."

It further says "that men and women of voting age in the benighted southland regardless of color, creed, race or previous condition of servitude were entitled to and must be granted the privilege of exercising their suffrage in national, state and local elections."

"That discrimination and segregation in transportation facilities must be abolished, that all men of minority groups in the armed forces must be granted equal opportunity for advancement within the rank as well as integrated in all branches of service."

But in the background of all parties and candidates will be the lurking color question and the victors and the vanquished alike in the coming election will throw light on the progress of race relations in this country.

We are now largely in the "guess stage" but we are going to enter the "know stage" come the November elections. With either the election of Dewey or Truman will come tokens of a better day for Negroes. For the first time in this country's history, the Negro can play "across the board" with hope of winning!

In the United States are 52 towns and villages and 15 settlements populated and governed entirely by Negroes. One of these, Mound Bayou, Miss., a town of 800 people, some years ago abandoned its jail which long had been unoccupied.

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Sports Scope

Satchell Paige

WASHINGTON. (ANP). Proof that Satchell Paige is the biggest drawing card in baseball this season was evident Monday night when some 5,000 chagrined fans were turned away from Griffith stadium after the park had been filled to capacity.

The spectators who were fortunate enough to get inside were bedazzled at the way the slender, nonchalant Negro righthander pitched Cleveland to a 10-1 victory. The Nats seemed befuddled as Paige changed his pace in pitches, first teasing them with slow moving balls and passing them by with fast ones that made them look as silly as a bunch of sandlot school boys.

Paige is reported as having drawn a crowd of 265,000 in five starts or an average of 53,000 per game. At Cleveland recently more than 78,000 fans poured into Municipal stadium where Paige was the principal figure in the establishment of a night game. At Chicago he performed before 51,000 with some 20,000 unable to purchase tickets. The same number is reported as having been turned away from Boston's less spacious Fenway park after it had been packed with some 34,000 fans.

Relatives Visit Lincoln After Twenty-Eight Years

A reunion was held at the home of Mrs. William Hammond, 1933 U street, when her brothers and their wives paid her a visit.

Mr. Sanford Follings had not been to Lincoln for 28 years. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Follings, and his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter

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Follings. The brothers are now making their home in Peoria, Ill., and are sons of Mrs. Lucy Follings of this city.

They were delighted with their visit to their old home place at 9th and Harrison in Belmont and were privileged to go through the house in which they lived many years ago.

The Follings met many of their friends and playmates among them were Charlie Smith, Dewey Regler and Lawrence Dean.

They have planned to make their return an annual affair.

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